

Annapolis Environmental Commission

Tuesday, August 4, 2010, 7:00pm

Pip Moyer Recreation Center at Truxtun Park

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Suzanne Pogell, **Chair**
Ginger DeLuca
Chris Kamenoff

Marie Rinaldi
Ted Weber

Diane Butler
Rachel Rachfal

Members Absent:

Dan Haas

Staff Present:

Maria Broadbent

Jan van Zutphen

Guest Present:

JaRon Johnson, Facilities Manager

Matt Ciminelli, Landscape

Ms. Pogell called the meeting to order at 7:08pm at Truxtun Park Recreation Center.

July 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Ms. DeLuca moved to approve the July 21, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Kamenoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

BUSINESS

Outreach – Eastport-a-Rockin

Ms Kamenoff reminded the Commission that the Commission had discussed having its own identity through a “Facebook” page. She agrees and believes that Facebook would be easy to maintain as well as offer a great tool for disseminating information. Ms. Rachfal added that Facebook is a great site for interaction but noted that the listserv should be maintained for those who are not computer savvy. Ms. Pogell expressed concern over who would manage the Facebook page and suggested a pilot program prior to committing to it.

Action Items from Five Initiatives Review

Recycling

Ms. Pogell introduced Ms. Broadbent who was invited to discuss the City’s recycling initiatives and Mr. Johnson, Facilities Manager at Truxtun Park whom the commission invited to describe how recyclables are processed. She thanked Ms. Rinaldi and Ms. Kamenoff for their efforts on behalf of the AEC’s Recycling Action Item. Ms. Broadbent noted that she has been asked to do an assessment of the solid waste program. This assessment includes reviewing the barrels in parks and the number of instances where trash is being handled more than once. A cursory review of the program indicates that there is room for improvement. She has obtained a listing of the current barrels in the parks and will use this list to improve current recycling efforts at other sites. She recommended a recycling pilot for the downtown area and believes that the black metal rod iron barrels would be easier to manage. She concluded that her recommendations to the City Manager will include some long-term and short-term projects.

Ms. Kamenoff, who with Ms Rinaldi is placing and retrieving recycling bins near the tennis courts, observed that people are using the bins more and more, recycling items such as plastic water bottles and food wrappings. Ms. Rachfal suggested encouraging the users of the facilities to maintain their own trash. Ms. Butler believes that if the contamination is decreased then there will be a higher quality of recycling. Ms. Kamenoff suggested putting the trash removal in as part of the user's contract. Ms Pogell suggested that these are good ideas for a recycling campaign at the park.

Mr. Johnson, said the Department purchased two customized bins to locate throughout the building so that currently there are three residential bins, two customized bins and a number of small residential bins. He believes that it is important for all City Departments to be working toward the same recycling goal. Ms. Butler asked if there are ways to encourage employees to recycle more. Mr. Johnson agreed to collectively brainstorm to determine ways to improve in this area. Ms. Rinaldi agreed to prepare a letter to Ms. Plumer suggesting that the City add a clause to contracts with the groups who are leasing City parks for athletic events, parties, etc requesting that they agree to remove and recycle all recyclable materials that the event generated. Ms Pogell suggested looking into an incentive awards program being used at Johns Hopkins Hospitals.

Website, Listserv and Facebook

There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of the Commission creating a Facebook page and using Twitter to distribute Commission happenings. After the discussion, members were encouraged to visit the City's webpage and become familiar with what it has to offer.

Budget Funds – Use of 2010 Funds

Mr. van Zutphen reported that Fiscal Year 2011 funding will be available to the Commission in October so current spending initiatives should be focused on essential items.

Subcommittees

Grant Writing

Ms. Butler asked if DNEP intends to complete any of the projects proposed in the 2009 Watershed Action Plan and if it could use any support from the Commission. Ms. Broadbent responded that there are projects for the headwaters of College Creek or Back Creek but encouraged members to contact Mr. Biba to determine viable projects that the Commission can participate in.

EcoCenter

Ms. Pogell explained that the Commission has been invited to outline a proposal for an early AM Breakfast Eco-Meets, to determine its viability for attracting residents to the Market House. She also suggested scheduling an Eco-Meet at the end of the day, immediately after work.

Stormwater

Mr Weber, who heads the Stormwater Sub-committee has proposed that the commission adopt the Environmental Idea Team's recommendation of increasing the number of rain gardens. Several locations have been discussed, including the Habitat for Humanities site on Clay Street, and the stormwater management measures being used in new construction at the Obery Court and Clay Street public housing sites. Ms. Rachfal and Mr. van Zutphin discussed the stormwater runoff problem in the Homewood Community and what the DNEP may be doing to address this issue. She noted that there is the possibility of some grant funding. The choice of locations and a rain garden planting plan will be discussed further at the September meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair

It was noted that Ms .DeLuca and Ms. Kamenoff agreed to co-vice chair the meetings.

Meeting Place/Time

Ms. Pogell reported that the new meeting date and time is the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Gorman Street, Conference Room 3 noting that the next scheduled meeting is September 15th. She mentioned that there maybe an occasional conflict with Tami's schedule. Mr. van Zutphen will ask Ms. Raftovich to update the website.

Parking Passes

Ms. Pogell inquired as to the status of the parking passes for the Gorman Street location. Mr. van Zutphen asked if anyone had a parking pass and if so what day was noted on it. Several members responded that the pass included the second Wednesday of each month. Mr. van Zutphen agreed to check with Ms. Raftovich to determine if the current pass can be revised to reflect the Commission's new meeting date and time.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was properly moved at 9:02pm, seconded and passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2010 at 7:30pm at 145 Gorman Street, Third Floor Conference Room.

Tami Hook, Recorder